

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01  
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 /099 W  
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R 161454Z AUG 77  
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5261  
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ADDIS ABABA 4958

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PBOR, OAU, ET, SO  
SUBJECT: CONTINUING ETHIOPIAN EFFORTS TO BOLSTER CLAIMS  
AGAINST SOMALIA

REF: ADDIS ABABA 4929

SUMMARY: AUGUST 16 ETHIOPIAN HERALD REPORTAGE ALMOST WHOLLY  
DEVOTED TO CONTINUING ETHIOPIAN CAMPAIGN TO PROVE ITS CLAIMS  
OF AGGRESSION BY REGULAR SOMALI TROOPS, TO ADVANCE FURTHER  
DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS INITIATED THROUGH OAU, AND TO WIN FAVOR-  
ABLE AND SYMPATHETIC WORLD OPINION FOR ETHIOPIAN CASE.  
HERALD ALSO GAVE EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO VISIT BY WESTERN  
JOURNALISTS TO WAR FRONT PAST WEEKEND. END SUMMARY.

1. AUGUST 16 ETHIOPIAN HERALD CARRIED NUMEROUS PHOTOGRAPHS  
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OF SOMALI MIG-17 WRECKAGE, CAPTURED SOMALI WEAPONS AND AMMU-  
NITION AND TWO CAPTURED, ALLEGEDLY SOMALI, REGULAR SOLDIERS.  
ACCOMPANYING ARTICLE REPORTED VISIT OF WESTERN AND ETHIO-  
PIAN JOURNALISTS TO WAR FRONT WHERE THEY "WITNESSED AND CON-  
FIRMED SOMALI NAKED AGGRESSION." HERALD CLAIMS CLOSELY PAR-  
ALLELED THOSE REPORTED REFTEL, BUT INCLUDED ANTI-AIRCRAFT  
GUNS, HEAVY MACHINE GUNS, PRC-77 RADIO, MILITARY DOCUMENTS

AND SOMALI CURRENCY AMONG ITEMS REPORTED CAPTURED. ALLEGING JOURNALISTS ONLY ABLE TO SEE FEW SAMPLES OF CAPTURED MATERIAL WHICH HAD BEEN BROUGHT TO DIRE DAWA, REPORT ADDED 16 SOMALI MIG-17 AND MIG-21S HAD BEEN SHOT DOWN PAST TWO WEEKS. STORY ALSO REPORTED INTERVIEW OF TWO CAPTURED SOLDIERS WHO CONDEMNED SIAD GOVERNMENT, AS PROPAGANDA WAR BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES COUNTINUES. JOURNALISTS VISIT TO WAR FRONT ALSO GIVEN WIDE COVERAGE ON ETHIOPIAN RADIO AND TELEVISION.

2. IN EFFORT TO DEMONSTRATE BROAD-BASED SUPPORT FOR ETHIOPIAN POSITION, HERALD REPORTED EXPRESSIONS OF ANXIETY ON PART OF KENYAN LEADERS TO VISITING FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER OVER SOMALI INTENTIONS IN HORN; YUGOSLAVIA PRESIDENT TITO'S CALL FOR IMMEDIATE CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES; AUTHORIZED STATEMENT BY SOVIET LEADERS IN TASS ALSO CALLING FOR HALT TO FIGHTING AND NEGOTIATION OF DIFFERENCES; STATE DEPARTMENT STATEMENT THAT U.S. CONTINUED STRONGLY TO SUPPORT OAU EFFORTS AND EXPRESSED HOPE "PARTIES WOULD RESPOND TO CALLS TO END FIGHTING PROMPTLY" "(BASED ON AUGUST 10 NOON BRIEFING CONTAINED STATE 191143); STATEMENT BY INDIAN EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER ALONG SAME LINES; AND EXPRESSION BY VISITING AFRO-ASIAN PEOPLES' SOLIDARITY ORGANIZATION THAT SITUATION POSES SERIOUS THREAT TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY. ARTICLE REITERATED ETHIOPIA'S CLAIM THAT SOMALI REGULAR ARMED FORCES LAUNCHED DIRECT ARMED AGGRESSION AGAINST ETHIOPIA ON JULY 23. NEWSPAPER FURTHER REPORTED ETHIOPIAN FONMIN STATEMENT FROM NAI-CONFIDENTIAL

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ROBI THAT SOVIET UNION HAD NOT YET PUT FORWARD ANY CONCRETE PROPOSAL TO END WAR, BUT ETHIOPIA PREPARED FOR DIALOGUE. FONMIN DENIED SOMALI CLAIMS THAT THEY OCCUPY ONE-THIRD OF ETHIOPIAN TERRITORY AND MAINTAINED THAT FIGHTING BEING CONDUCTED BY "ENTIRE SOMALI WAR MACHINE," AND NOT MERELY SOMALI-BACKED REBELS.

3. HERALD AND ETHIOPIAN DELEGATION RETURNING FROM LIBREVILLE STATED THAT OAU HAD VINDICATED ETHIOPIAN STAND BY REAFFIRMING CARDINAL PRINCIPLE OF INVIOABILITY OF FRONTIERS FROM COLONIAL ERA AND THUS REJECTED ARGUMENTS THAT OGADEN UNDER ETHIOPIAN COLONIZATION. FONMIN CLAIMED LIBREVILLE MEETING PASSED RESOLUTION CONDEMNING EVERY TYPE OF AGGRESSION AND SABOTAGE CARRIED OUT TO UNDERMINE SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF MEMBER STATE. HERALD FURTHER REPORTED FRENCH NEWS AGENCY (AFP) ARTICLE SUPPORTING ETHIOPIAN INTERPRETATION OF OAU MEDIATION COMMITTEE RESULTS. BESIDES REAFFIRMING TERRITORIAL PRINCIPLE, OAU ALSO IMPLIED BY ITS REJECTION OF SO-CALLED WESTERN SOMALI LIBERATION FRONT, THAT ONLY LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IN COUTRIES NOT YET INDEPENDENT HAVE ANY STATUS WITH OAU.

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4. ETHIOPIAN MINISTRY OF INFORMATION ALSO STATED AGAIN SOMALI CLAIMS THAT FOREIGN TROOPS FIGHTING ON SIDE OF ETHIOPIA FABRICATION BY MOGADISCIO REGIME. MININFO FURTHER CLAIMED INFORMED SOURCES HAVE CONFIRMED IRAQI AND SYRIAN FORCES FIGHTING ALONG SIDE REGULAR SOMALI ARMED FORCES, PROVIDING ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE THAT TWO COUNTRIES AND SOMALIA POOLING RESOURCES SIMULTANEOUSLY TO ANNEX AREAS OF ETHIOPIA AND GAIN CONTROL OF RED SEA.

5. COMMENT: ETHIOPIAN CAMPAIGN TO ESTABLISH ITS CASE AGAINST SOMALIA HAS BEEN MAKING GOOD USE OF WESTERN AND OAU FORUMS. HOWEVER, IT NOT YET CLEAR HOW DIPLOMATIC AND POLITICAL EFFORTS ALONE CAN DO MUCH TO AFFECT SITUATION IN OGADEN. FROM ADDIS PERSPECTIVE, IT APPEARS NO MEANINGFUL PRESSURE BEING EXERTED ON SOMALIA BY ANY OF ITS BENEFACTORS TO HALT FIGHTING. ONE CAN ONLY SPECULATE WHETHER ETHIOPIA WILL RAISE

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ISSUE AT UN, BUT CONTINUING DETERIORATION IN OGADEN OR INCREASED SOMALI EFFORTS COULD LEAD ETHIOPIA TO MAKE DRAMATIC AND EMOTIONAL APPEAL AT UPCOMING UNGA. IN FACE OF MILITARY LOSSES AND INSUFFICIENT TIME TO ASSIMILATE RECENT ARMS DELIVERIES, ETHIOPIA'S ALTERNATIVES BECOMING MORE AND MORE CIRCUMSCRIBED.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE SUMMARIES OF WASH. POST AND N.Y. TIMES ARTICLES RE: VISITS TO WAR FRONT. TIENKEN

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